

Served: January 16, 1998

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D.C.

Issued by the Department of Transportation
on the 12th day of January, 1998

Applications of

VARIOUS FOREIGN AIR CARRIERS

for exemptions or authorities under 49 U.S.C.
section 40109 and the orders and regulations
of the Department of Transportation

Dockets OST-97-3131
 OST-97-3039
 OST-96-1950
 OST-96-1909
 OST-96-1851
 OST-96-1847
 OST-96-1696

ORDER

The foreign air carriers referenced in the attached Notices of Action Taken have applied for various forms of authority or relief from Title 49 of the U.S. Code or regulations or orders of the Department in order to perform the air transportation activities shown in the attached Notices of Action Taken. Except as noted, no answers were filed to these requests. Because of the imminence of these operations, we approved them by telephone, subject to adherence, by each applicant, to the conditions set forth in its foreign air carrier permit, and/or conditions attached.

We carefully considered the information set forth in each application described in the attached Notices of Action Taken, and we found that each of the proposed operations was consistent with the public interest and was consistent with an applicable bilateral aviation agreement and/or our aviation relationship with the applicant's homeland, that each applicant was qualified to perform its proposed operations, and that each application should be approved.

For applicant carriers seeking initial operating authority, we determined, based on the record in those proceedings, that those carriers were financially and operationally qualified to conduct the services they proposed, and, unless otherwise noted, that they were substantially owned and effectively controlled by citizens of their respective homelands.

Under authority assigned by the Department in its Regulations, 14 CFR Part 385, we found that for each operation (1) immediate action was required and was consistent with Department policy; (2) grant of the exemption or authority was consistent with the public interest; and (3) grant of this authority would not constitute a major regulatory action under the Energy Policy and Conservation Act of 1975.

ACCORDINGLY,

1. We confirm the actions described in the attached Notices of Action Taken, which granted the referenced foreign air carriers (1) exemptions from the provisions of sections 41301, and where necessary 41504, and/or other sections of Title 49 of the U.S. Code; and/or (2) relief or authorizations provided for under regulations or orders of the Department, to the applicants to perform the operations described in the attached Notices of Action Taken;

2. In the conduct of the service, each applicant was to adhere to the conditions set forth in Appendix A, and to any other conditions as noted in the attached Notices of Action Taken;
3. To the extent not granted, or explicitly deferred as noted in the attached Notices of Action Taken, these applications are denied; and
4. We may amend, modify, or revoke this order at any time without hearing.

Persons entitled to petition the Department for review of this order under the Department's Regulations, 14 CFR 385.50, may file their petitions within ten (10) days after the date of service of this order. The filing of a petition for review of a particular action shall affect this order only as it concerns that action.

These actions were effective when taken, and the filing of a petition for review will not alter their effectiveness.

By:

PAUL L. GRETCH
Director
Office of International Aviation

(SEAL)

CONDITIONS OF AUTHORITY

APPENDIX A

In the conduct of the operations authorized, the holder shall:

- (1) Not conduct any operations unless it holds a currently effective authorization from its homeland for such operations, and it has filed a copy of such authorization with the Department;
- (2) Comply with all applicable requirements of the Federal Aviation Administration, including, but not limited to, 14 CFR Parts 129, 91, and 36;
- (3) Comply with the requirements for minimum insurance coverage contained in 14 CFR Part 205, and, prior to the commencement of any operations under this authority, file evidence of such coverage, in the form of a completed OST Form 6411, with the Federal Aviation Administration's Program Management Branch (AFS-260), Flight Standards Service (any changes to, or termination of, insurance also shall be filed with that office);
- (4) Not operate aircraft under this authority unless it complies with operational safety requirements at least equivalent to Annex 6 of the Chicago Convention;
- (5) Conform to the airworthiness and airman competency requirements of its Government for international air services;
- (6) Comply with the requirements of 14 CFR Part 203, concerning waiver of Warsaw Convention liability limits and defenses;
- (7) Agree that operations under this authority constitute a waiver of sovereign immunity, for the purposes of 28 U.S.C. 1605(a), but only with respect to those actions or proceedings instituted against it in any court or other tribunal in the United States that are:
 - (a) based on its operations in international air transportation that, according to the contract of carriage, include a point in the United States as a point of origin, point of destination, or agreed stopping place, or for which the contract of carriage was purchased in the United States; or
 - (b) based on a claim under any international agreement or treaty cognizable in any court or other tribunal of the United States.

In this condition, the term "international air transportation" means "international transportation" as defined by the Warsaw Convention, except that all States shall be considered to be High Contracting Parties for the purpose of this definition;

- (8) Except as specifically authorized by the Department, originate or terminate all flights to/from the United States in its homeland;
- (9) Comply with the requirements of 14 CFR Part 217, concerning the reporting of scheduled, nonscheduled, and charter data;
- (10) If charter operations are authorized, comply with the Department's rules governing charters (including 14 CFR Parts 212 and 380); and
- (11) Comply with such other reasonable terms, conditions, and limitations required by the public interest as may be prescribed by the Department, with all applicable orders or regulations of other U.S. agencies and courts, and with all applicable laws of the United States.

This authority shall not be effective during any period when the holder is not in compliance with the conditions imposed above. Moreover, this authority cannot be sold or otherwise transferred without explicit Department approval under Title 49 of the U.S. Code (formerly the Federal Aviation Act of 1958, as amended).

(41301/40109) 12/96



**U.S. Department of
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NOTICE OF ACTION TAKEN

DOCKET OST-97-3131

This serves as interim notice to the public of the action described below, taken orally by the Department official indicated; the confirming order or other decisional document will be issued as soon as possible.

Applicant: AEROMEXPRESS, S.A. de C.V.

Date filed: November 17, 1997, as supplemented November 21, 1997

Relief requested: Exemption from 49 USC section 41301 to permit the applicant to conduct scheduled, all-cargo services between La Paz, Mexico, and the U.S. coterminal points Los Angeles, California, and New York, New York, for a period of one year.

If renewal, date of last action(s): New authority.

Applicant representative(s): William C. Evans, 202-371-6030

Responsive pleadings: None.

DISPOSITION

Action: Approved.

Action date: December 3, 1997

Effective date of authority granted: December 3, 1997, through December 3, 1998.

Basis for approval: United States-Mexico Air Transport Services Agreement of August 15, 1960, as amended and extended.

Except to the extent exempted/waived, this authority is subject to the terms, conditions, and limitations of Appendix A.

Special conditions/Partial grant/Denial basis/Remarks:

Action taken by Paul L. Gretch, Director, Office of International Aviation, under assigned authority (14 CFR 385)

(Petitions for review may be filed from now until 10 days after the service date of the confirming order/letter. Filing of a petition shall not stay the effectiveness of this action.)



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NOTICE OF ACTION TAKEN

DOCKET OST-97-3039

This serves as interim notice to the public of the action described below, taken orally by the Department official indicated; the confirming order or other decisional document will be issued as soon as possible.

Applicant: BALAIR/CTA LEISURE, LTD.

Date filed: October 22, 1997

Relief requested: Exemption from 49 USC section 41301 to permit the applicant to conduct charter operations, carrying persons, property and mail, as follows: (1) between any point or points in Switzerland; via intermediate points; and any point or points in the United States; and beyond; and (2) other charters pursuant to 14 CFR Part 212.

If renewal, date of last action(s): New authority.

Applicant representative(s): William Karas, 202-429-6223

Responsive pleadings: None.

DISPOSITION

Action: Approved.

Action date: November 26, 1997

Effective date of authority granted: November 26, 1997, through November 29, 1999.

Basis for approval: United States-Switzerland Air Transport Agreement.

Except to the extent exempted/waived, this authority is subject to the terms, conditions, and limitations of Appendix A.

Special conditions/Partial grant/Denial basis/Remarks: We found that the carrier is operationally and financially qualified to conduct the operations it proposes and that it is substantially owned and effectively controlled by citizens of Switzerland. In the conduct of these operations, the carrier must adhere to all applicable provisions of the U.S.-Switzerland Agreement. Moreover, in the conduct of the charter operations described in request (1) above, the carrier may, without prior Department approval, carry charter traffic between the United States and a third country point, provided that such traffic is carried on a flight that serves Switzerland for purposes of carrying traffic between the United States and Switzerland.

Action taken by Paul L. Gretch, Director, Office of International Aviation, under assigned authority (14 CFR 385) (Petitions for review may be filed from now until 10 days after the service date of the confirming order/letter. Filing of a petition shall not stay the effectiveness of this action.)



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NOTICE OF ACTION TAKEN

DOCKET OST-96-1950

This serves as interim notice to the public of the action described below, taken orally by the Department official indicated; the confirming order or other decisional document will be issued as soon as possible.

Applicant: AEROVIAS de MEXICO, S.A. de C.V.

Date filed: November 14, 1997

Relief requested: Exemption from 49 USC section 41301 to permit the applicant to continue to conduct scheduled, combination service between Culiacan, Mexico, and Los Angeles, California, for a period of one year.

If renewal, date of last action(s): December 3, 1996; confirmed by Order 96-12-38.

Applicant representative(s): William C. Evans, 202-371-6030

Responsive pleadings: None.

DISPOSITION

Action: Approved.

Action date: December 2, 1997

Effective date of authority granted: December 2, 1997, through December 2, 1998.

Basis for approval: United States-Mexico Air Transport Services Agreement of August 15, 1960, as amended and extended.

Except to the extent exempted/waived, this authority is subject to the terms, conditions, and limitations indicated: Foreign air carrier permit conditions.

Special conditions/Partial grant/Denial basis/Remarks:

Action taken by Paul L. Gretch, Director, Office of International Aviation, under assigned authority (14 CFR 385). (Petitions for review may be filed from now until 10 days after the service date of the confirming order/letter. Filing of a petition shall not stay the effectiveness of this action.)



NOTICE OF ACTION TAKEN

DOCKET OST-96-1909

This serves as interim notice to the public of the action described below, taken orally by the Department official indicated; the confirming order or other decisional document will be issued as soon as possible.

Applicant: TAXI AEREO de VERACRUZ, S.A. de C.V. Date Filed: November 12, 1997

Relief requested: Exemption from 49 USC section 41301 to permit the applicant to continue to conduct passenger charter operations between Mexico and the United States, and other passenger charter operations in accordance with 14 CFR Part 212, using small equipment, for a period of one year.

If renewal, date of last action(s): December 3, 1996; confirmed by Order 96-12-20.

Applicant representative(s): Eugene E. Smith, 210-590-1630

Responsive pleadings: None.

DISPOSITION

Action: Approved.

Action date: December 1, 1997

Effective date of authority granted: December 1, 1997, through December 1, 1998.

Basis for approval: United States-Mexico Air Transport Services Agreement of August 15, 1960, as amended and extended (Agreement).

Except to the extent exempted/waived, this authority is subject to the terms, conditions, and limitations of Appendix A.

Special conditions/Partial grant/Denial basis/Remarks: In the conduct of these operations, the carrier must adhere to all applicable provisions of the U.S.-Mexico Agreement. In the conduct of these operations, the carrier may only use aircraft capable of carrying no more than 60 passengers and having a maximum payload capacity of no more than 18,000 pounds (small equipment). The above grant includes authority to operate Third and Fourth Freedom charter operations. While we have subjected, consistent with the provisions of the Agreement, Mexican carriers conducting charters with large aircraft to prior approval of their Third and Fourth Freedom charters (see Order 92-2-7 at 5), we determined that a Third/Fourth Freedom prior approval requirement was not necessary on public interest grounds in the case of this carrier, since it will be conducting these operations solely with small aircraft. (Other charter operations to/from the United States under this authority, however, are subject to prior approval under 14 CFR Part 212.) Further, we are continuing to allow Mexican carriers conducting passenger charters using small equipment to make stopovers in the United States in the conduct of such operations.

Action taken by: Paul L. Gretch, Director, Office of International Aviation, under assigned authority (14 CFR 385). (Petitions for review may be filed from now until 10 days after the service date of the confirming order/letter. Filing of a petition shall not stay the effectiveness of this action.)



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NOTICE OF ACTION TAKEN

DOCKET OST-96-1851

This serves as interim notice to the public of the action described below, taken orally by the Department official indicated; the confirming order or other decisional document will be issued as soon as possible.

Applicant: AEROASTRA, S.A. de C.V.

Date Filed: November 19, 1997

Relief requested: Exemption from 49 USC section 41301 to permit the applicant to continue to conduct passenger charter operations between Mexico and the United States, and other passenger charter operations in accordance with 14 CFR Part 212, using small equipment, for a period of one year.

If renewal, date of last action(s): December 2, 1996; confirmed by Order 96-12-20.

Applicant representative(s): Lee A. Bauer, 202-962-9440

Responsive pleadings: None.

DISPOSITION

Action: Approved.

Action date: December 10, 1997

Effective date of authority granted: December 10, 1997, through December 10, 1998.

Basis for approval: United States-Mexico Air Transport Services Agreement of August 15, 1960, as amended and extended (Agreement).

Except to the extent exempted/waived, this authority is subject to the terms, conditions, and limitations of Appendix A.

Special conditions/Partial grant/Denial basis/Remarks: In the conduct of these operations, the carrier must adhere to all applicable provisions of the U.S.-Mexico Agreement. In the conduct of these operations, the carrier may only use aircraft capable of carrying no more than 60 passengers and having a maximum payload capacity of no more than 18,000 pounds (small equipment). The above grant includes authority to operate Third and Fourth Freedom charter operations. While we have subjected, consistent with the provisions of the Agreement, Mexican carriers conducting charters with large aircraft to prior approval of their Third and Fourth Freedom charters (see Order 92-2-7 at 5), we determined that a Third/Fourth Freedom prior approval requirement was not necessary on public interest grounds in the case of this carrier, since it will be conducting these operations solely with small aircraft. (Other charter operations to/from the United States under this authority, however, are subject to prior approval under 14 CFR Part 212.) Further, we are continuing to allow Mexican carriers conducting passenger charters using small equipment to make stopovers in the United States in the conduct of such operations.

Action taken by: Paul L. Gretch, Director, Office of International Aviation, under assigned authority (14 CFR 385). (Petitions for review may be filed from now until 10 days after the service date of the confirming order/letter. Filing of a petition shall not stay the effectiveness of this action.)



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NOTICE OF ACTION TAKEN

DOCKET OST-96-1847

This serves as interim notice to the public of the action described below, taken orally by the Department official indicated; the confirming order or other decisional document will be issued as soon as possible.

Applicant: AEROPYCSA, S.A. de C.V.

Date Filed: November 6, 1997

Relief requested: Exemption from 49 USC section 41301 to permit the applicant to continue to conduct passenger charter operations between Mexico and the United States, and other passenger charter operations in accordance with 14 CFR Part 212, using small equipment, for a period of one year.

If renewal, date of last action(s): December 2, 1996; confirmed by Order 96-12-20.

Applicant representative(s): Irwin P. Altschuler and Sage Rhodes, 202-463-4320

Responsive pleadings: None.

DISPOSITION

Action: Approved.

Action date: December 2, 1997

Effective date of authority granted: December 2, 1997, through December 2, 1998.

Basis for approval: United States-Mexico Air Transport Services Agreement of August 15, 1960, as amended and extended (Agreement).

Except to the extent exempted/waived, this authority is subject to the terms, conditions, and limitations of Appendix A.

Special conditions/Partial grant/Denial basis/Remarks: In the conduct of these operations, the carrier must adhere to all applicable provisions of the U.S.-Mexico Agreement. In the conduct of these operations, the carrier may only use aircraft capable of carrying no more than 60 passengers and having a maximum payload capacity of no more than 18,000 pounds (small equipment). The above grant includes authority to operate Third and Fourth Freedom charter operations. While we have subjected, consistent with the provisions of the Agreement, Mexican carriers conducting charters with large aircraft to prior approval of their Third and Fourth Freedom charters (see Order 92-2-7 at 5), we determined that a Third/Fourth Freedom prior approval requirement was not necessary on public interest grounds in the case of this carrier, since it will be conducting these operations solely with small aircraft. (Other charter operations to/from the United States under this authority, however, are subject to prior approval under 14 CFR Part 212.) Further, we are continuing to allow Mexican carriers conducting passenger charters using small equipment to make stopovers in the United States in the conduct of such operations.

Action taken by: Paul L. Gretch, Director, Office of International Aviation, under assigned authority (14 CFR 385). (Petitions for review may be filed from now until 10 days after the service date of the confirming order/letter. Filing of a petition shall not stay the effectiveness of this action.)



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NOTICE OF ACTION TAKEN

DOCKET OST-96-1696

This serves as interim notice to the public of the action described below, taken orally by the Department official indicated; the confirming order or other decisional document will be issued as soon as possible.

Applicant: TRANSPORTE AEREO TECNICO EJECUTIVO, S.A. de C.V.

Date Filed: November 19, 1997

Relief requested: Exemption from 49 USC section 41301 to permit the applicant to continue to conduct passenger charter operations between Mexico and the United States, and other passenger charter operations in accordance with 14 CFR Part 212, using small equipment, for a period of one year.

If renewal, date of last action(s): December 3, 1996; confirmed by Order 96-12-20.

Applicant representative(s): Lee A. Bauer, 202-962-9440

Responsive pleadings: None.

DISPOSITION

Action: Approved.

Action date: December 9, 1997

Effective date of authority granted: December 9, 1997, through December 9, 1998.

Basis for approval: United States-Mexico Air Transport Services Agreement of August 15, 1960, as amended and extended (Agreement).

Except to the extent exempted/waived, this authority is subject to the terms, conditions, and limitations of Appendix A.

Special conditions/Partial grant/Denial basis/Remarks: In the conduct of these operations, the carrier must adhere to all applicable provisions of the U.S.-Mexico Agreement. In the conduct of these operations, the carrier may only use aircraft capable of carrying no more than 60 passengers and having a maximum payload capacity of no more than 18,000 pounds (small equipment). The above grant includes authority to operate Third and Fourth Freedom charter operations. While we have subjected, consistent with the provisions of the Agreement, Mexican carriers conducting charters with large aircraft to prior approval of their Third and Fourth Freedom charters (see Order 92-2-7 at 5), we determined that a Third/Fourth Freedom prior approval requirement was not necessary on public interest grounds in the case of this carrier, since it will be conducting these operations solely with small aircraft. (Other charter operations to/from the United States under this authority, however, are subject to prior approval under 14 CFR Part 212.) Further, we are continuing to allow Mexican carriers conducting passenger charters using small equipment to make stopovers in the United States in the conduct of such operations.

Action taken by: Paul L. Gretch, Director, Office of International Aviation, under assigned authority (14 CFR 385). (Petitions for review may be filed from now until 10 days after the service date of the confirming order/letter. Filing of a petition shall not stay the effectiveness of this action.)